Conversion of Madras Telephones into a Corporation

*382. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Madras Telephones into a Corporation as in Delhi and Bombay; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. There is no proposal for formation of new Mahanagar Telephone Nigams at present.

Setting up of Technology Cells by the ONGC

*383. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to set up technology cells in its various research and development institutes;

(b) if so, whether this will be a major effort to keep pace with the latest trends emerging in oil technology;

(c) if so, what other benefits will accrue therefrom; and

(d) to what extent it will help in oil exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cells would identify technology gaps by planning the international technology environment and find out ways and means to bridge the gap leading to development of expertise.

(d) Oil and Natural Gas Commission will be able to keep pace with the latest technology trends for exploration in highly risky, geologically complex and frontier areas.

Emergency Requirement of Orissa

*384. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated requirement of energy in Orissa by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) what measures are being taken to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) As per 13th Power Survey Report the anticipated annual requirement of Energy in Orissa by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan period will be 19.27 billion units.

(b) The measures being taken to meet the requirement include, *inter alia*, expeditious commissioning of additional capacity in Orissa in the State Sector, providing assistance from the neighbouring systems, renovation and modernisation of Talcher Thermal Power Plant to improve its productivity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses and implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures.

Special panel for coordinating with ONGC

*385. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has set up a special panel to coordinate its activities with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;